



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Testimony in Support of SB 1348
Presented to Senate Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee
November 8, 2012
By Jill Fritz
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The Humane Society of the United States**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization with over eleven million members and constituents, including more than 415,000 in Michigan, I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 1348. SB 1348 clarifies procedures relating to the state's membership in the national law enforcement network known as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Wildlife officials estimate that tens of millions of animals are poached annually. Poaching is an enormous problem and far more often than not, poaching activity remains undetected and poachers go unpunished for their crimes. In fact, it is estimated that despite the tireless efforts of game wardens, a mere one to five percent of poachers are ever apprehended by law enforcement.

Poachers exploit wildlife and callously disregard the laws that protect it. They steal from legitimate sportsmen and wildlife watchers. Adequate penalties are imperative for deterring illegal hunting activity. An important component of any law enforcement effort, including one that protects wildlife, is enforcement reciprocity with other states. Michigan and thirty-eight other states formally recognize this fact through their membership in the compact, and four more states are in the process of passing the legislation necessary to join the compact.

Modeled after the equally successful Driver's License Compact, the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact was first developed back in the early 1990s. Since joining the Compact in 2004 with the enactment of state statute 324.1615, Michigan's membership in the compact has prevented wildlife violators who have lost their hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges in member states from coming here to circumvent those license revocations.

Additionally, enacting the compact helped ensure that those who have been punished with license revocations for illegal hunting, fishing, or trapping in Michigan can't avoid their punishment by engaging in those activities in another member state.

By enacting procedural clarifications needed to enforce compact provisions, SB 1348 will ensure that Michigan doesn't become a safe haven for lawbreakers or a hunting destination for out-of-state criminals.

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Michigan, I urge your support of SB 1348.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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